

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/28/2019 12:07:27 PM

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My Comment on Your Draft Plan - CGNF

May 28, 2019

Forest Plan Revision Team

PO Box 130

Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Revision Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on The Custer Gallatin National Forest's Draft Management Plan. Specifically, I am commenting on the Absaroka Beartooth and Madison, Henrys Lake, and Gallatin geographic areas.

Informed citizens hope you agree that these areas provide irreplaceable wildlife habitat, headwater streams, and diverse recreational opportunities within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Sadly, booming urban growth, advances in recreation technology, and climate change-related impacts are putting more and more pressure on our public lands. So it is critical that any new management plan must actively get ahead of these threats, by cementing our recreation footprint in place, staunchly protecting our wildlife populations, and implementing forward-thinking strategies to better understand and adapt to a changing climate.

I support the full incorporation of the Gallatin Forest Partnership (GFP) Agreement into the plan for the Gallatin and Madison ranges.

However, while alternative C incorporates parts of that agreement, it does not accurately reflect the GFP's recommendations for wildlife protections or recreation monitoring.

Looking outside the GFP agreement, it is also critical that we protect and enhance other areas, including wildlife linkage areas and existing wilderness, and include enforceable climate change components.

I recommend the following revisions to the draft plan:

Ensure wildlife connectivity in portions of the Madison, Henrys Lake, and Gallatin Geographic Area that aren't otherwise protected by the

grizzly bear recovery zone. The Madisons are critical for wildlife movement to areas beyond the National Forest and we would be wise to facilitate it.

Habitat protections for grizzly bears must extend wherever population health is monitored and into areas important for connectivity.

Grizzlies must also be designated as a Species of Conservation Concern.

There are far too many trigger-happy buffoons lobbying to waste all our money and efforts to help bears to recover (and by the way, this applies to wolves too).

Plan components must support a year-round, self-sustaining bison population within tolerance areas on National Forest System lands.

Where bison and wolves live, ancient, native ecosystems begin to thrive again.

West Pine and Porcupine Buffalo Horn back country areas must mirror Cabin Creek Wildlife Management Area in wildlife protection and wild character plan components.

Recreational use must be monitored more extensively & critically by area, and standards must ensure that any increase recreation is countered by even more wildlife protections. We're "nickel & diming" & sub-dividing our wild places to death to pander to mindless fun-lovers and that must STOP.

Manage existing wilderness areas in line with the 2020 Vision.

Given the rising risk of climate change-related damage and losses, monitoring questions for vegetation, invasive species, aquatic resources, fire, and more must explicitly assess the effects of climate change and guide adaptive management as required by the 2012 planning rule (219.12(a)(5)(vi)).

In addition to the 30 rivers recommended as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation, PLEASE include Taylor Creek, Hellroaring Creek, and the South Fork of the Madison due to their outstanding wildlife values.

I am excited to see the Custer Gallatin National Forest taking a fresh look at our ecosystems and the many species who depend on them. Thank you for this Draft Plan and DEIS, for they include many strong points.

With some revisions, the new management plan will be an even better tool to guide decades of sustainable forest management.

Thank you for your obviously conscientious work on this important issue.

Respectfully,

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